

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Memorandum

To: Ravalli County Board of Commissioners

CC:

From: Bitterroot National Forest

Date: 1/10/2008

Re: Lost Horse quarry proposal

This is a quick note to try and clarify some issues related to the Lost Horse quarry proposal which have been raised in public meetings and by the press. We hope these clarifications may help the board come to a decision on the proposed project.

- The Lost Horse quarry has never been abandoned. The Forest Service conducted crushing operations at the site in the mid 80's. The forest analyzed and approved a proposal for a private commercial operation to extract loose material at the site in the late 90's. In recent years the forest has removed large barrier rock from the site for use at various forest locations. We intend to utilize rock from the site this year for some structure protection work at Lake Como. The forest is presently starting the design phase for work on the Lost Horse road, Schumaker Campground and various dispersed sites at the head of the Lost Horse drainage. This work preliminarily scheduled for initial funding in 2009 will require a material site for rock and gravel. Due to the sensitivity of the project area and lack of available material on site we will be looking at the Lost Horse quarry for a possible material source.
- If the Board makes the decision not to proceed with the project as presently proposed the Forest Service will still consider granting the county a free-use permit to extract riprap from the quarry. The permit would be conditional on the county making improvements to the Lost Horse road to facilitate hauling. The Forest Service would issue the permit on a yearly basis due to our possible need to contract a crushing operation at the site for our Lost Horse drainage project plans. We will not allow any blasting to occur at the site with either the county's or Forest Service operations.
- There has been some confusion regarding the excess funding from the North Kootenai Creek Road agreement between the Forest Service and the county. This funding was never intended to be used by the county to crush aggregate for the Forest Service in the Lost Horse quarry. The excess funding is intended to be utilized on

January 10, 2008

other roads currently under our Schedule A road maintenance agreement including the plan to restripe the Nez Perce Road.

- Over the last 8 years the forest has utilized an average of 1200 cubic yards per year of rock material (rip-rap, boulders, etc.) on our various force account and contract projects. Our contract costs for rock riprap has ranged from \$45 - \$85 per cubic yard of material delivered and placed. This is for Class 1 (small) through Class 6 (large) material.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact either Amber Lewis, Forest Engineer and Lands Staff Officer, at 363-7160 or Kent Miller, Land Surveyor, at 363-7148.